THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government is already pursuing a policy to promote generation of income and employment in villages for the benefit of rural communities including small farmers. In pursuance to this objective, various Central and Centrally Sponsored Scheme are being implemented through various implementing agencies/departments and through the State Governments for development of Agriculture, Horticulture, Aquaculture, Animal Husbandary, Poultry, Apiculture, Sericulture, Cottage and Small Scale Industries and other diverse economic activities.

Food to Starving Families

2738. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after Orissa, 11 persons have died in Udaipur district (Rajasthan) from starvation/malnutrition, as alleged by a non-Government organisation;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide food to the starving families throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRJCULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) -No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Diminishing Trend in Rayda Production

2739. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of a survey conducted by Mustard Research and Promotion Consortium, regarding the diminishing trend in Rayda Production by the Cultivators;